



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS SUMMARY

Grand Jury Indicts State of Wisconsin employee
for fraud in connection with state travel contract

A federal grand jury in Milwaukee has indicted a State of Wisconsin employee for misapplication of funds and fraud in connection with the awarding of a travel agency contract, United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced January 24, 2006.

Georgia Thompson (d/o/b 3/31/50 of Waunakee, Wisconsin), an employee of the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration, was charged with two felony counts related to her conduct in the selection process for the state "Partner" travel contract, the largest of six travel contracts under consideration by state officials in 2005. The contract was awarded to Adelman Travel Group. The Indictment alleges that Thompson misused her position by using "political considerations" in the selection process. The Indictment specifically alleges that Thompson:

- (a) intentionally inflated her scores for Adelman Travel during the oral presentation portion of the Partner contract selection;
- (b) stated to other evaluators that she had intentionally inflated her scores for another travel agency during the oral presentation portion of the Athletics contract and did so in order to use that score as a negotiating tool in favor of Adelman Travel in dealings with other members of the committee on the Partner contract;
- (c) prevented the otherwise unanimous determination of the other committee members that the Partner contract be awarded to a recipient other than Adelman Travel ; and
- (d) suggested committee members change the scores evaluating the Partner contract.

The Indictment further alleges that as a result of Thompson's actions, an additional evaluation step was utilized in the selection process, resulting in the contract being awarded to Adelman Travel.

If convicted of both counts, Thompson faces up to 20 years imprisonment.

The charge is the result of a joint investigation by federal and state officials. The lead investigative agencies were the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation, which is overseen by Wisconsin Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager. Lautenschlager's office, Biskupic and Dane County District Attorney Brian Blanchard all participated in a review of the evidence, as did Madison-based United States Attorney Steve Sinnott.

Because the U.S. Attorney's Office in Milwaukee regularly appears in front of a federal judge who has family connections to Adelman Travel Group, the U.S. Department of Justice assigned U.S. Attorney Sinnott to work on this matter and to oversee the federal aspects of the investigation concerning Adelman Travel.

No court date has yet been set for Thompson.

The public is cautioned that an Indictment is a formal method for issuing charges and does not constitute evidence of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time as guilt is established by proof beyond a reasonable doubt. The public is further cautioned that an Indictment alleges violations of law only by those charged in the Indictment. An Indictment does not allege wrongdoing, either explicitly or implicitly, against any other person.

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